

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: BELAUNDE PRESS CONFERENCE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 11, FORMER
PRESIDENT BELAUNDE COMMENTED ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT
POLITICAL SCENE IN PERU ALTHOUGH REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IN COURSE OF THE EXCHANGE WITH
REPORTERS, BELAUNDE

--DENIED ANY PERSONAL AMBITION TO BE PRESIDENT ("I AM MORE
COMFORTABLE WITH THE SIMPLE LIFE."),

--ASSERTED THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD FACE POLITICAL
PROBLEMS FOR WHICH IT MAY NOT HAVE SOLUTIONS,

--OPPOSED MORALES BERMUDEZ'S STATEMENT THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD
BE ANNULED IF IT DID NOT INCORPORATE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN
THE NEW CONSTITUTION,

--ASSERTED THAT THE "PREFERENTIAL VOTE" SYSTSTEM FOR THE ASSEMBLY
IS A TERRIBLE IDEA WHICH WILL "ATOMIZE THE ASSEMBLY",

--GREED THAT HAYA DE LA TORRE'S JANUARY6 MEETING IN THE
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PLAZA SAN MARTIN WAS A SUCCESS AND ANNOUNCED THAT AP PLANS
TO HOLD ITS MASS RALLY IN THE SAME PLAZA JUNE 1,

--PRAISED MORALES BERMUDEZ PERSONALLY AS "COOL, DIGNIFIED, . . .
A MAN WITHOUT RANCOR", BUT ADMITTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S
LIVELY PERFORMANCE AT HIS DECEMBER 30 PRESS CONFERENCE WAS
SOMEWHAT SURPRISING,

--REITERATED AP'S POSITION THAT THE JUNE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE TO SELECT A NEW GOVERNMENT, OT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, BUT CONCLUDED THAT AP WOULD APARTICIPATE ANYWAY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. COMMENT: BELAUNDE, WHO LEAVES FOR THE U.S. JANUARY 13 NOT TO RETURN UNTIL THE LATTER HALF OF APRIL, HAS APPARENTLY ENJOYED A SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF PERU FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS. (" I RECEIVED A BIGGER RECEPTION IN CUZCO THAN WHEN I WAS PRESIDENT.") AP SEEMS INCREASINGLY TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM ITS TAND-OFFISH POSITION AS THE PARTY OF THE OPPOSITION TO ONE OF COINCIDENCE OF INTERESTS (ALTHOUGH NO PACTS AT THE PRESENT TIME) WITH OTHER CENTRIST PARTIES, ESPECIALLY APRA. THE AP IS STILL BESET BY INTERNAL DIVISIONS, HOWEVER, WHICH MAY BECOME MORE APPARENT DURING THE ABSENCE OF ITS LEADER.
SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

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SAS ID: 3788822
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT
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